

## **CHARTER**

### **Inter-agency Working Group Accreditation and Certification**

### **Subcommittee on Forensic Science Committee on Science National Science and Technology Council**

#### **A. Designation**

The Inter-agency Working Group for Accreditation and Certification (IWG AC) of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science (Subcommittee) is hereby established.

#### **B. Background**

The Charter of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, Committee of Science (COS), National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), was enacted on July 7, 2009. The Subcommittee on Forensic Science will advise and assist the COS and the NSTC and other coordination bodies of the Executive Office of the President on policies, procedures and plans related to forensic science in the national security, criminal justice, and medical examiner/coroner systems at the local, state and federal levels.

#### **C. Functions**

In support of the Subcommittee's efforts, the IWG AC shall convene with the purpose of exchanging views, information, and advice relating to the management and implementation of Federal programs relating to forensic science that are established pursuant to statutes that share intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Such statutes include, but are not limited to, 42 U.S.C 14132 and the Justice for All Act. In pursuing its mandate, the IWG AC shall focus in particular on issues relating to forensic science accreditation and certification. Examples of the work the IWG AC may undertake include, but are not limited to:

- Accreditation:
  - Identify accreditation bodies for forensic science laboratories.
  - Identify recognition bodies for laboratory accreditation organizations.
  - Identify non-accredited laboratories, forensic science units and crime scene units.
  - Identify existing accreditation standards.
  - Recommend processes for conducting a gap analysis for accreditation standards, improving existing standards, and developing new standards where needed.
  - Recommend a process to assist forensic science laboratories to become accredited.
  - Determine costs to meet accreditation requirements.

- Certification:
  - Identify certification organizations for forensic scientists.
  - Identify recognition bodies for certification organizations.
  - Identify existing certification standards.
  - Evaluate existing standards' abilities to meet needs.
  - Recommend processes for conducting a gap analysis for certification standards, improving existing standards, and developing new standards where needed.
  - Recommend a process to assist forensic scientists to achieve certification.
  - Determine costs to meet certification requirements.

**D. Organization**

The IWG AC's co-chairs, executive secretary, and voting members shall be federal employees. In addition, state, local, and/or tribal elected officers (or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf), and only such officers or employees, shall be invited to participate in the IWG AC as members in an advisory capacity. The IWG AC shall communicate its findings to the Subcommittee as requested. The IWG AC shall, as appropriate, outreach to and obtain input from forensic science and criminal justice organizations, state, local, and private practitioners, and other stakeholders.

**E. Termination**

The IWG AC shall terminate concurrently with the Subcommittee on Forensic Science.

**F. Approval**

In my capacity as Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, I hereby determine that the formation of the Inter-agency Working Group for Accreditation and Certification is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.




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Kenneth E. Melson  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives




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Mark Stolorow  
Director  
Office of Law Enforcement Standards  
National Institute of Standards and Technology